

TERRE HAUTEANS' ART SHOWN HERE

Works By Late Janet Scudder and Caroline Ball Are On Display.

(Now showing at the Swope Art Gallery are some works by Janet Scudder and Caroline Ball, Terre Haute women who gained world fame in the field of sculpture. Allen D. Albert, director of the gallery, discusses these works in the following article. Ed. note).

By Allen D. Albert

OPEN almost any modern work of reference on art and you will find mention in it of Terre Haute and the Sheldon Swope Art Gallery.

This not because you and I have done anything much to make it so. It is mainly because in the B's and the S's are the names of Ball and Scudder, names that once belonged to two little girls in our public schools who looked into the future as fearfully, I've no doubt, as any of the thousands that will throng the school corridors next autumn.

From a very early day in their lives, I venture, two qualities stirred within Janet Scudder and Caroline Peddle. Each of them yearned to do a special kind of work and each of them intended valiantly to get the chance.

I did not come to know either of them, although one of the best chapters of my life was that of being an art critic in Washington, D. C., when there were a score of competitions for memorials to our national heroes. The two Indiana women were not ambitious to do general on horseback or statesmen with a roll of parchment in one hand while giving a sweep round the broad horizon with the other. I made friends with the Borglums and Charles Henry Neihaus and Augustus St. Gaudens—but not with Janet Scudder and Caroline Peddle Ball.

A Scudder Fountain.

Yet it was Janet Scudder who introduced me to the patrons of art in Terre Haute, including the managers of the Sheldon Swope Art Gallery. I was to do a talk on the survival value of modern art for the Woman's Department Club and went by mistake to the club-house instead of the gallery. In the front lawn, rusty with advancing fall, I recognized one of Miss Scudder's little fountains and as I turned away I reflected how this artist was a daughter of Indiana, how she had given starlight to her native town.

Writing about her is easier than keeping the writing within space limits. Sculpture is now the step-child of modern art. We have American galleries which do not give room to it. The Art Institute in Chicago keeps it in the cellar. Some of its practitioners employ it to glorify flatheads, as Mr. Milles does in the extraordinary fountain that faces the Union Station in St. Louis. Others prefer to model little pigmies of the jungle, with bay windows in the middle and conical skulls at the top.

There is a school whose products all might have been carved in butter and then taken too close to the stove.

At the other end of the pendulum's swing is a school that finds bliss in the products of Canova and Thorwaldson.

Miss Scudder and Mrs. Ball worked well between those extremes. They did not seize upon characteristics, as Brancusi. They did not find their emphasis in distortions as Jacob Epstein in his middle period. They were pupils of St. Gaudens and MacMonnies. They worked alongside Herman MacNeil, Herbert Adams, Constantin Meunier, John Flanagan and Bela Pratt.

Lady Fortune was kind to her sisters and arranged a counterpoise for jazz which would work to their advantage. The same America which was moving from soldiers' monuments in courthouse squares to Dianas with club feet in office building courts, was refreshing its soul with gardens. Some were magnificent, like Brook Green, on the Carolina coast; some were on roadsides, taking on beauty from skillful planting done by the park boards of the states; more, a thousandfold, were the modest planting of small suburban estates.

Sculpture could help with these beauty spots by giving them notes of surprise, loveliness, gayety.

Sculpture By Terre Haute Women Adds Interest and Distinction to Swope Gallery Group Exhibit This Month



GROUP OF FIGURINES BY CAROLINE BALL, TERRE HAUTE SCULPTOR.

Clearly the temper of these two women answered to that call. Both loved childlike and both smiled readily.

So from Mrs. Ball we have garden fountains, a sun dial, a terracotta plaque of a little girl reaching up to kiss her young mother.

The Pipes of Pan.

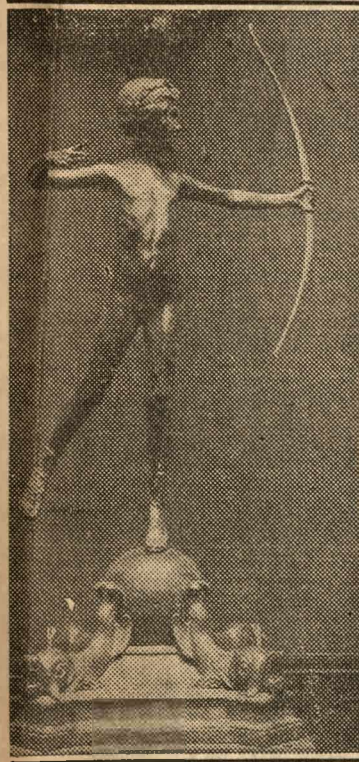
Miss Scudder's sparkle gives light and life to a dozen rich gardens. You can see her "Frog Fountain" in the Metropolitan as well as in the Swope Gallery here in the home town of her girlhood. A seated Pan blows his pipe in a rookery of the Rockefeller estate on the Hudson. A "Boy With Fish" is proof that even a woman sculptor and an American can break into the Luxembourg. One of her most delicate and graceful figures is that of the "Young Diana" in the estate of Harold Pratt on Long Island.

For you and me now living in Terre Haute there may lurk teachings in all this:

Miss Scudder is not unlike Verrocchio who modeled in Florence five centuries ago. Put their merry children side by side and learn how art disregards national boundaries, how it smiles over the slow passage of centuries.

All practical folk would have listened indulgently, in the 1890's, if someone had said:

"See those two young girls? They will be better known, will have brought more credit to their town, in the 1940's, than any financier, or politician, or corporation executive than you and I know in Terre Haute."



Young Diana, one of the pieces which added to Miss Scudder's is in Metropolitan Museum, New York. By Janet Scudder.



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Reception for Miss Scudder

The Department Club gave a tea in honor of Miss Janet Scudder the noted sculptress at the Club House on Tuesday afternoon, October 4.

The Club president, Mrs. Faurot, introduced Miss Scudder and was assisted in the receiving line by Mrs. O. R. Wood, chairman of the Art Department, Mrs. Walker Schell connoisseur of art and one of the Board of Directors of the Swope Gallery and Mrs. W. G. Clark of Ft. Meyers, Fla., a past president of the Club now spending a short time here. The other past presidents and members of the Executive Board acted as hostesses at large. The dining room was attractively decorated and refreshments were served by the hospitality committee of which Mrs. Gilbert Rowe is chairman.

There were about one hundred fifty guests to do Miss Scudder honor, among whom were several gentlemen and the artists of the city.

Miss Scudder brought with her several replicas of famous statues of hers which together with six paintings were on display in the Little Gallery of the Club and will remain there for a short time longer. Appointments to see them may be made with Mrs. Wood or Miss Bindley.

The youthful Diana, a bronze about thirty inches high, is very beautiful and is the property of Mrs. Schell and lent for the occasion. Another exquisite figure of about the same size is called "Victory," a figure of most graceful poise lifting high a laurel wreath. The model for this was Mrs. Vernon Castle who posed for it when she was twenty-three years old and at the height of her grace and beauty. These two are the larger pieces. In further reduced size are replicas of some of her famous fountain pieces, Pan, the Frog Fountain, and The Little Lady of the Sea, which are figures of children most charming in facial expression and pose of body. These are life-size in the originals. A Rabbit sits calmly on the mantel.

Miss Scudder's paintings are of scenes in France and have been made in the last five years, as a less strenuous art activity physically, than that of sculpture. They are interesting and by further evidence of the latter gift, Miss Scudder wrote a book a few years ago "Modeling My Life" for which The Ladies Home Journal paid her a handsome stipend.

When she left Terre Haute, her native city, as a young girl Miss Scudder studied at the Cincinnati Art Academy and later went to Chicago to study at the Art Institute of Chicago and to become an assistant to Lorado Taft on work for the World's Columbian Exposition. One of these early statues in clay "The Nymph" is in the Fairbanks Library. When this work was finished she went abroad to study at the Vittis Academy, Colorossis' Academy and MacMonnies Studio in Paris.

She was the first American woman to have sculpture bought for the Luxembourg, Paris, and her "Young Pan" fountain was selected by Robert Bacon, ambassador to France, for the American Embassy in Paris.

In 1913 she was commissioned to make fountains for two estates. "Seated Pan" was made for the John D. Rockefeller estate at Potantico Hills, near Tarrytown, N. Y., and the "Shell Fountain" was made for the estate of Harold McCormick in Lake Forrest, Ill. She made the "Tortoise Fountain" for the Richmond High School at Richmond, Ind., and replicas

are in the gardens of the Alexander Hudnut estate at Princeton, N. J., and the Peabody Institute at Baltimore, Md. Her "Young Diana" is on the estate of Harold Pratt on Long Island.

In 1916 her medal of the Indiana Centennial was awarded a prize. Among her other works are the seal of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the Japanese art facade of the Brooklyn Institute Museum, a portrait medallion in the Congressional Library at Washington, D. C.; medal of the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, R. I. and "Seated Fawn" in the Brooklyn Museum.

Her "Frog Fountain" is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; "Young Diana" received honorable mention in the Paris Salon in 1911; "Little Lady of the Sea" in the Salon in 1913 and "Fighting Boys' Fountain" in the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work also may be found in the Musee du Luxembourg, Paris; the Metropolitan Museum and Numismatic Museum in New York City, John Herren Art Institute in Indianapolis and Art Institute of Chicago.

The sculptress received the honor of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor in 1925. She is associated with the National Academician and is a member of the National Sculptors' Society and the Union Interalliee in Paris.

Her "Madonna and Child" done within the last five years was exhibited in the Paris salon this spring. Another recent work "Eros and Aphrodite," is on exhibition at the New York World's Fair in the contemporary Arts building.

Miss Scudder was fortunate in being able to get three cases of her paintings and statues through on one of the last boats that sailed from France. These she will exhibit Wednesday at the Department Club. Her lovely estate at Ville d'Avray near Paris was closed before she left, with no thought of war, and she is now negotiating with the French government to turn over the estate to French officers.

"I only wish I were young enough to go back and help this time," she said. Miss Scudder turned over her estate for a Red Cross Hospital during the last World War and was a member of the Red Cross bicycle corps for service around Paris for some time before she came to New York.

When Miss Scudder leaves here this week-end she will go to Taos, N. M., to paint and to visit Miss Mabel Dodge. She has maintained studios in Paris and New York for many years and several Terre Hauteans have visited her there.

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